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**Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the situation between Nicaragua and Honduras**

The European Union has noted with concern the aggravated situation arising between Nicaragua and Honduras concerning an area of the continental shelf beneath the Caribbean sea after the ratification of the so called Ramirez-Lopez Treaty on Maritime Delimitation between Colombia and Honduras

The European Union makes a solemn appeal to the parties concerned to show a maximum of restraint and to refrain from any action that might further damage the relations between the two countries. The European Union further urges both Governments to make every effort to resolve this problem through dialogue and other means of settlement of international dispute based on international law. It firmly supports the participation of the Organization of American States in the resolution of the difference.

The European Union is particularly worried that tensions, if not solved by negotiations, may put into jeopardy the important achievements in the political and economic integration in Central American region. The European Union urges both Governments to concentrate on the reconstruction and development of the region in line with the declaration adopted by the Stockholm Consultative Group Meeting in May 1999.

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